

## Hawkins, CherylA

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**From:** Cogliano, Vincent  
**Sent:** Thursday, January 11, 2018 5:23 PM  
**To:** (b) (6)  
**Cc:** Hawkins, CherylA; Otto, Martha  
**Subject:** Disposition of correspondence with the Scientific Integrity Program

Dear (b) (6)

I am writing with respect to your email of November 30, 2015, to Francesca Grifo on (b) (6) Dr. Grifo is on extended leave and I am serving as her backup.

Your email had been logged as an allegation of a violation of EPA's Scientific Integrity Policy, but after considering the materials you provided, I see this more as a case of a differing scientific opinion that has not been adopted by the rest of the Agency. You have been able express your opinion to your management, as evidenced by three reports developed for your office. The statement in your email that "I feel lucky and privileged to have a very supportive management team in (b) (6) that has encouraged me to continue to push the science and engage in discussion" also argues against considering this a violation. As the Scientific Integrity Program is not here to arbitrate between differing scientific opinions, we are considering the matter closed from our perspective.

Your email also expressed the hope that this issue would be reviewed by the SAB. My understanding is that the SAB considers topics that are submitted by program offices, so this is a matter for (b) (6) management, not for the Scientific Integrity Program.

Thank you for your work at EPA, and I wish you well.

Sincerely yours,  
Vincent Cogliano

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